

P. 112

NL

No 235-

100
41775

Alberton ★ Star.

VOL. I. FORT FRANCES, KEEWATIN, TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1878. No. 11.

For Sale.

A neat and comfortable Residence, situated on FRONT STREET, opposite the Steamboat Landing, in the Village of ALBERTON, (Fort Frances,) It contains Five Rooms, well finished; also a Root Cellar. An excellent GARDEN is attached. For Terms, Apply To
J. F. POWELL, 2113.
Fort Frances, March 5th, 1878.

Notice.

THE Hudson Bay Company will not be responsible for any damage done to Cattle trespassing on the H. B. Co's., Reservation by their (H. B. Co's.,) Dogs. Also all parties are forbidden to pass through the Old Fort Field.

A. R. LILLIE.
Fort Frances, April 29th, 1878.

1878 Forwarding 1878,

UPPER DECKED STEAMER SPEEDWELL,

WILL make her regular trips once a week, during the season of navigation, between the N. W. Angle, and Fort Frances, Calling at Rat Portage and all intermediate ports. The SPEEDWELL has been thoroughly overhauled, and an addition made to her machinery which will give her increased power and enable her to navigate the rapids on Ramy River without difficulty. For Freight or passage apply to the Captain on board, or to the Agent at the N. W. Angle.

CAPT. WILEY,
OWNER.
Fort Frances, April 2nd, 1878.

ON application at this Office, single copies of the STAR can be obtained.

Poetry

TO KEEP A TRUE LENT.

Is this a Fast to keep
The harder leane,
And clane,
From fat of veales and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To all
The platter high with fish?

Is it to faste an houre
Or rag'd to go,
Or show
A downcast look and soure?

No; 'tis a fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat,
Unto the hungry soule.

It is to fast from strife,
From old debate;
And hate;
To circuncize thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent,
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

—"Herrick."

A gentleman, who was a good shot, lent a favorite pointer to a friend, who had not much to accuse himself of in the slaughter of birds, however much he might have frightened them. After firing at several partridges, which the old pointer had flushed for him, without bringing them down, the dog turned away in apparent disgust, went home, and never could be persuaded to accompany the same person afterwards.

A woman in Dumfermline, Scotland, not long since died of drinking excessive quantities of very strong tea.

BREACH OF PROMISE.

An effort is made in England to abolish actions for breach of promise of marriage. Parliament is petitioned not to pass such a law, and the ladies set forth their objections to its passage in the following sensible and strong arguments:

"Marriage is the natural and honorable profession in which the majority of women maintain themselves by the discharge of the conjugal, social, and domestic duties which appertain to the position of a wife; the entrance on this profession comes to a woman through an offer or promise of marriage, the acceptance of such offer or promise debars the woman from forming other ties, and the breaking or non-performance of such promise hinders her from obtaining an establishment in life, inasmuch as a woman has given her promise and affections to one man cannot transfer them to another without grievous loss; men do not usually marry for a maintenance, while marriage is regarded as the proper and usual means through which women obtain a maintenance; therefore a breach of promise of marriage by a man to a woman causes a pecuniary loss which is not usually suffered through a breach of promise by a woman to a man; and upon these and other grounds, the petitioners pray that leave may not be granted to bring in a bill to abolish actions for breach of promise of marriage.

—The population of Manitoba is increasing at the rate of a 1000 a week.

Alberton Star,

PUBLISHED
EVERY TUESDAY,
AT

Alberton, [Fort Frances] Keewatin.
\$1 Per Annum, IN ADVANCE.
Office—Lalib's block, corner of Front
and Church streets, Alberton.
W. B. LITTLE.



KEEWATIN DISTRICT.

THE ALBERTON STAR

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1878.

THE FORT FRANCES LOCK IN THE SENATE.

It was not our intention to say anything upon this subject, nor should we have done so at present, were it not for certain statements made before the committee, by a Mr. Walter Dick, respecting the navigation of Rainy River. Had not those statements been made in the Senate, and as we suppose with all due solemnity, we should have paid no attention to them whatever, but have felt rather inclined to treat the matter as a sort of "Baron Munchausen"—or Davy Crockett story, so wild and reckless does it appear, especially the crossing at the Sault upon stones. Those statements however going the rounds of the press, if not rebutted in some shape, are calculated to mislead people, and otherwise to retard and injure the settlement of a young place, such as Rainy River District, a place we may say just opening in existence, upon these grounds and these alone, we step to the front in defence of this place.—

The idea of a man walking over a river from nine to twenty feet in depth, on stones, a river as wide as the red river, and probably twice as wide as the Assiniboine, is so absurd, and ridiculous, that it seems almost a waste of time to comment upon it.—As it happens there are gentlemen here now, and who have lived at Fort Frances and vicinity for the past eight years, competent engineers some of them, who have been constantly navigating those waters, and therefore know all about them, some of those gentlemen were employed on the Dawson Route, from its opening to the close, and were consequently here when Mr. Dick accomplished his "little" walk at the Sault. Mr. Dick was, as he states engaged in some capacity on the eastern end of the route for some time, but we have it on the best authority, that he never, except on one occasion, two at most, passed down Rainy River west of Fort Frances, and that was in the month of July, when the water is almost at its highest point. Now any person who knows anything at all about this country, or its rivers, know that there is a rise of at least from six to nine feet between the 1st of May and the 1st of July, in Rainy River.—From the month of Aug. the water commences to fall gradually to its usually winter level, which is as we stated six or nine feet lower than that of the summer, Mr. Dick therefore walked over the river on the tops of stones, when as we have shewn it was almost at its highest level. Well done Mr. Dick? As we have already said the matter is too absurd to be treated in a serious manner. Why last winter, there being no ice upon the river, and the water at its lowest point, the government tug here, plied up and down continually between the mouth of the river and Fort

Frances. Captain Wiley states positively, that he can bring his tug, either up or down the Sault at any season of the year when the ice is off, although she draws 4½ feet of water, and the Capt. will take a wager upon this.—We would just say in conclusion that if Mr. Dick will kindly return to Rainy River, and repeat his performance at the Sault, giving us due notice, so that we may be there, he will remove from our minds (skeptical though they be) the absurd doubt as to the stone crossing at the Sault, (which rather staggers us just now) and will at the same time hand his name down to the remotest ages of posterity, as being the greatest walkist that ever lived?

FORT FRANCES ENQUIRY.

MR. H. SUTHERLANDS EVIDENCE.

In his evidence before the Senate committee respecting the above enquiry, Mr. Sutherland proposes a scheme for connecting the C. P. Railway at Savanne and Rat Portage, or in other words to reopen the Dawson Route between those two points upon an entirely new and practical system, embracing in its scope the various water stretches and the canal, for a full report of which we refer our readers to the Ottawa "Free Press" April 16th. Mr. Sutherlands proposed scheme, is one that must commend itself to every well wisher of Canadian interests, a scheme which if carried out, will soon repay every dollar which may be spent upon it, and otherwise help to build up and improve the North West Territory. We do not think that there is in the whole Dominion a man so unpatriotic, selfish and shortsighted, as to be unable to appreciate and assist in every possible way this we, might almost say national enterprise, especially as the

sum required is not a very large. To prove the feasibility and usefulness of such a scheme by any arguments we might here adduce is not out intention, nor do we think it necessary, the facts are too patent. Our emigrants and intending settlers quietly draw away from us, with their horses, cattle and money, while on their way to the North West, and this in our very faces. Our money and means going to build up the trade and commerce of another country, bonding-houses and officials staring us in the face at every corner. And why is it so, we ask? simply because we are compelled to travel the greater part of the distance through the United States, in order to reach another portion of the Dominion. (Manatoba and the North West.) We have no fault to find with the American people on this score, probably they treat us as well as we deserve. It is ourselves who are to blame, for the lack of energy and enterprise in not keeping within our own borders the traffic and commerce which properly belongs to us, and which by Mr. Sutherlands plan may be so cheaply and speedily obtained.

SETTLERS RAINY RIVER.

The first batch of settlers arrived last Saturday, from the vicinity of Montreal, they had rather an unpleasant trip, having had to travel all the way round by Duluth, Winnipeg, and in by North West Angle. On their arrival at Thunder Bay, to which point they had tickets, there being no means of transportation, and as they were strangers, they thought it better to go around by Winnipeg, although at a great inconvenience and expense to themselves, this, they should not have done, as it would have been better and cheaper for them to have employed a guide and pushed on straight through from Thunder Bay, however, they seem to be well satisfied with Rainy River, although they had some trouble in getting into it. More arrivals are expected in a few days.

Population of Fort Frances is 400.

A CHALLENGE.

A gentleman of position and an old resident of Fort Frances, handed to us a letter to publish, in which he challenges Walter Dick to come to Fort Frances, and prove to the inhabitants of this place that the statement he made before the Senate at Ottawa, was true. If he can only do this, (although we know it to be an impossibility) it is the only way that he can clear his reputation from a stain that cannot otherwise be easily wiped out.—Also the inducement of a pleasant trip, expenses all paid, and one hundred dollars for pocket money! Now Walter my boy read the following letter:

To the Editor of the "STAR,"

Sir,—I will give Mr. Walter Dick, One Hundred Dollars and his expenses there and return, if he will point out, any spot in the channel of the Long Sault, Rainy River, that has only seven feet of water, (let alone two and a half feet,) between now, and the first of next September.—As soon as he signifies his consent the money will be deposited in the hands of A. R. Lillie Esq., of the Hon. H. B. Co., here. Mr. Dick was here in July 1874, (about the same time he could get here now), consequently he "should" find the 2½ ft. place between now and the first of September.

Yours &c.,

RAINY RIVER.

We can vouch for the authenticity of this letter, as being a pure and bonafide transaction, we will furnish the gentleman's name at the proper time, and at present await the action of Mr. Dick. Our action in this matter, is simply defending our young country, from the attacks of those who seem to be possessed of but small discrimination, between an actual falsehood and the truth.

The only difficulty about the Sault is that the channel is a little crooked, and which can easily be remedied at but little cost if necessary.

I give Service—on Sunday, morning and evening.

Prayer meeting on every Wednesday evening at the School House.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Hargrave and family. Miss Hargrave, wife and sister of Mr. James Hargrave, H. B. Co., left last week on a summer visit to Mrs. Hargrave's friends at Portage la Prairie, Manatoba. Miss Hargrave spent last summer and the past winter at this place, and was much thought of and respected by the inhabitants of this place. Mr. Hargrave accompanied them as far as North West Angle.

Geo. M. Wilson Esq., merchant of this place, returned last evening, from Ontario, after an absence of three months, spent with his family. Mr. W. looks none the worse for his trip, he has brought back with him a large stock of goods, which we presume will be on exhibition in a few days.

Messrs. Thompson and Wiley [son of Captain Wiley.] arrived to-day from Thunder Bay, en-route for Winnipeg. They remain here one day to recruit themselves.

We clip the following from an American paper the SUPERIOR TIMES, published at Wisconsin.—The old Hudson's Bay trading post of Fort Frances, now known as the town of Alberton, numbers a population of over 400 and supports a weekly paper the Alberton Star. This is not a bad showing for a town 150 miles almost due north from Superior and Duluth. Next week we will give some items from the STAR which will show that our Canadian neighbors can make quite as good progress in opening up a new country as "we Yankees."

THE LEITRIM MURDER.

EVIDENCE IMPLICATING ONE OF THE PRISONERS.

Londonderry, April 23.—Sufficient evidence has been discovered to implicate one of the prisoners charged with the murder of Lord Leitrim.

—Two hundred emigrants per day are arriving at St. Paul, Minn., destined for the North West.

The following appeared in the Thunder Bay "Sentinel" of the 28th of March.—Track laying from the Tunnel toward the Savanne commences to-day; it is expected that early in May the cars will be running to that place—70 miles up the Line, where it is now "ordered" the famous "water-stretch" commences.

If the above statement is correct, the people of Keewatin may, in a short time congratulate themselves on being put in direct communication with Lake Superior.—Ed.

The term "rink" has a curious history. It has for ages been applied in Scotland by curlers to the piece of ice swept clear of snow, on which they practise their games. From Scotland, the word was exported to Canada, where it was given to the sheets of smooth ice, under cover, on which to skate in their long and windless frosts, such skating feats as are seldom seen in this country. The "rink" travelled all over the United States, from New York to San Francisco, as the best possible term for the courts with flooring that looked just like ice touched with hoarfrost, where the few pastime of skating on wheels was enjoyed. It crossed the sea again, and now in England is in everybody's mouth.

—Maine had 500 divorces last year, an increase of 100 since 1874, and about one to every twelve marriages.

—In Virginia each glass of beer drunk pays a tax of half a cent, each glass of alcoholic liquor a tax of two and one half cents.

—Two hundred emigrants per day are arriving at St. Paul, Minn., destined for the North-west.

Two Irishmen were preceeding in company to a jail yard to witness an execution, when one said to the other; "I say, Pat, where wud ye be if the hangman had his dues?"—"Sure," said Pat, "I'd jist be walkin' dowa this shireet all alone."

Mr. Forbes, in his book on Africa, writes: "The bird which guards the buffalo and the rhinoceros is very intelligent.—The grass is often so tall and dense that one could go close up to these animals quite unperceived; but the guardian bird, sitting on the breast, sees the approach of danger flaps its wings and screams, which causes its bulky charge to rush off from a foe he has neither seen nor heard. For its reward the vigilant little watcher has the pick of the parasites of his fat friend."

—A queen bee lays from 10,000 to 30,000 eggs in a year.

DRAINED LAND.

At Oxford Furnace, in the valley of the Pequost, Warren Co., N. J., there is a large tract of land, formerly marsh or swamp and liable to overflow, which has been drained and reclaimed, and is now in profitable cultivation. An account of this improvement and its results, prepared by Mr. Charles Scranton, of Oxford, is given in the Annual Report of the State Geologist of New Jersey, Prof. Geo. H. Cook. We make an extract, which may be of service to some of our readers:

"This tract of land comprises about 420 acres of land, subject to overflow at every heavy rain fall, and is located in the eastern part of Oxford township Warren county, and has on its edges or surroundings somewhat over a hundred acres more of sour land. It was in 1857 bog meadows and low swamp timber land, the timber being chiefly soft maple and birch. The Furnace brook passing through it on its winding course to the Pequost river, with the large number of rivulets and springs kept the whole tract soft, spongy or wet, for the greater portion of the year, so that the timber could not be cut and

brought to the shore, and the pasture was of very little value except for a few weeks in the driest part of the summer. A small portion of the parts lying near the uplands, was generally mown for hay, of which it yielded a poor quality.

"In the year 1858, I dug a canal, following straight courses eighteen feet wide, and six feet deep, for the distance of about one and three fourths of a mile, with four main ditches, generally about five feet wide at the top, one and a half feet wide at the bottom, and from four to five feet deep. The upper three-fourths of a mile has a fall about nine feet, and the lower mile has a fall about six feet. The canal has been self enlarged by the freshets since occurring, so it is now about twenty feet wide at the top, and seven feet deep, and carries all the water of an ordinary freshet. The timber has been cut off, the stumps have been pulled out and burned, and the logs were cut off, piled in heaps, and burned, the ashes, in each case, spread over the land, and about one-third of the whole tract has been limed.

"After this kind of land has been once thoroughly got under cultivation, I think it safe to say that an acre of it is more easily plowed or farmed than an acre of ordinary upland.

In conclusion, I may say, that I believe the results shown in the drainage of these lands, practically demonstrate the value of drainage of similar and larger tracts of the same kinds of land, and that the time is not far distant when it will be seen that for certain kinds of crops such lands are vastly superior to any other, for the reasons that they will produce more with less cost for manures, as they have, under proper management, a soil practically inexhaustable in fertility."

—"N. Y. Observer."